

# Nancy Johnson

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## **Meriden Wins Brownfields Assessment Grant** *Johnson Works to Win Key EPA Grant for City*

MERIDEN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and the Environmental Protection Agency today announced the City of Meriden will receive a \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant.

“These funds will help Meriden grow, improve its local economy and create jobs,” Johnson said. “It will allow Meriden to take another step toward downtown revitalization and will open more doors to additional EPA funding in the future. Today’s hard-fought victory is the result of determination and teamwork between federal and local officials.”

Johnson wrote to the EPA Administrator on March 24, 2004 in support of Meriden’s grant application.

Winning this grant “would come a crucial time in the city’s efforts to renew itself,” Johnson wrote. “These EPA funds would be critical to moving abandoned and contaminated properties to new uses; creating new sites for development and increasing Meriden’s tax base and creating new jobs.”

“We need more land to develop commercially, and this grant will help us clear and clean land that we can develop economically, as well as improve Meriden’s neighborhoods,” said Peggy Brennan, city Economic Development Coordinator. “Nancy was instrumental in keeping the lines of communication open with EPA and we’re grateful for that.”

The \$200,000 grant from the EPA will allow the city to provide low-interest loans to commercial property owners to test sites for environmental contamination. Assessing brownfield properties for possible contaminants is the first, necessary step to turnaround old factory and industrial sites. Brownfields are properties where previous industrial use and environmental hazards may complicate future development and reuse. Brennan said 20 percent of the overall grant can be used as individual, direct grants to property owners for environmental assessment projects.

Johnson and Brennan also thanked the city’s Blight and Brownfields Committee for its work to move this grant application forward.

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